

Web table 2: Parameter estimates from segmented regression models predicting the mean monthly number of items reported per abstract

There were 48 monthly intervals: 25 prior to the publication of CONSORT for Abstracts guidelines (January 2008), three for the transition period to accommodate a gradual implementation (between February 2008 and April 2008), and 20 after the intervention (we considered that the beginning of the intervention was May 2008). The three month transition period was excluded from statistical models.

Parameter	Coefficient	Standard error	P value
Primary outcome (0-9)			
<i>All journals</i>			
Pre-intervention baseline level	1.5876	0.1335	<.0001
Pre-intervention trend	0.0236	0.00898	0.0121
Post-intervention level change	0.3035	0.2121	0.1600
Post-intervention trend change	0.0196	0.0154	0.2120
<i>Annals, Lancet</i>			
Pre-intervention baseline level	1.5236	0.3065	<.0001
Pre-intervention trend	0.0417	0.0206	0.0497
Post-intervention level change	1.4977	0.4869	0.0037
Post-intervention trend change	0.0193	0.0354	0.5898
<i>BMJ</i>			
Pre-intervention baseline level	1.3270	0.2841	<.0001
Pre-intervention trend	0.0334	0.0191	0.0886
Post-intervention level change	-0.8876	0.4576	0.0595
Post-intervention trend change	0.0295	0.0346	0.3994
<i>JAMA, NEJM</i>			
Pre-intervention baseline level	1.6150	0.1655	<.0001
Pre-intervention trend	0.0169	0.0111	0.1373
Post-intervention level change	-0.1060	0.2629	0.6887
Post-intervention trend change	-0.0091	0.0191	0.6369
Secondary outcome (0-5)			
<i>All journals</i>			
Pre-intervention baseline level	0.2799	0.0772	0.0008
Pre-intervention trend	-0.0000	0.0053	0.9985
Post-intervention level change	0.3882	0.1369	0.0072
Post-intervention trend change	0.0288	0.0089	0.0025
<i>Annals, Lancet</i>			
Pre-intervention baseline level	0.1758	0.2098	0.4067
Pre-intervention trend	0.00982	0.0141	0.4906
Post-intervention level change	1.0338	0.3332	0.0035
Post-intervention trend change	0.0613	0.0243	0.0154
<i>BMJ</i>			
Pre-intervention baseline level	0.4030	0.1355	0.0050
Pre-intervention trend	-0.00843	0.0091	0.3606
Post-intervention level change	-0.1269	0.2183	0.5642
Post-intervention trend change	0.0329	0.0165	0.0534
<i>JAMA, NEJM</i>			
Pre-intervention baseline level	0.2209	0.0601	0.0007
Pre-intervention trend	0.00375	0.0040	0.3590
Post-intervention level change	-0.0263	0.0954	0.7838
Post-intervention trend change	-0.00539	0.0069	0.4421

Notes:

Pre-intervention baseline level = mean number of items reported per abstract in January 2006;

Pre-intervention trend = change in the mean number of items reported per abstract that occurs with each month before the publication of the guidelines from months 1 (January 2006) through 25 (January 2008);

Post-intervention level change = change in the mean monthly number of items reported per abstract occurring after the publication of the guidelines from month 25 (January 2008) to month 29 (May 2008);

Post-intervention trend change = change in the mean number of items reported per abstract that occurs with each month after the publication of the CONSORT for Abstracts guidelines from month 29 (May 2008) to month 48 (December 2009), compared to the trend before (months 1 (January 2006) through 25 (January 2008))

The ordinary least square regression of the mean number of items reported per abstract revealed no significant autocorrelation except for one model: the secondary outcome for all journals (Figure 1.). The Durbin Watson statistic was 1.35 ($p=0.0031$ for the hypothesis of positive auto correlation and $p=0.99$ for the hypothesis of negative autocorrelation). Only this model was corrected for autocorrelation.